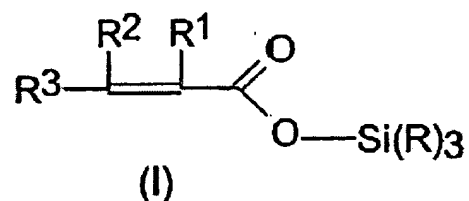


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Original) Process for the preparation of trihydrocarbylsilylated unsaturated carboxylate monomers of either general formula (I)

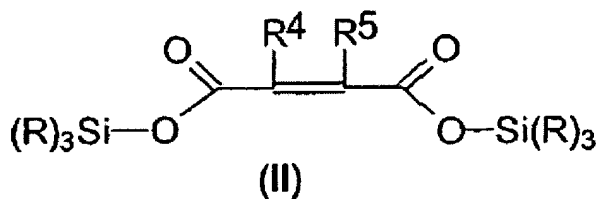


wherein

each R independently represents an alkyl, a substituted alkyl, an aryl or a substituted aryl group, R¹, R² each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or substituted alkyl group, an aryl or substituted aryl group

R³ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl or substituted alkyl group, an aryl or substituted aryl group, or -COOR⁶ wherein R⁶ represents an alkyl, a substituted alkyl, an aryl group or a substituted aryl group,

or general formula (II)

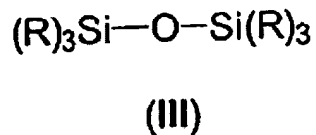


wherein

each R is as already defined above

R^4 , R^5 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or substituted alkyl group, an aryl or substituted aryl group

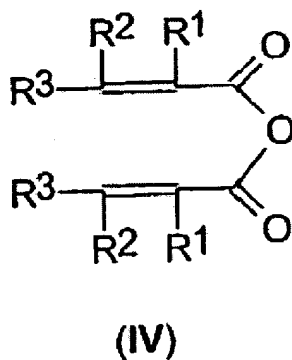
which process comprises the step of reacting, in the presence of a catalyst, a hexahydrocarbyldisiloxane of formula (III)



wherein

R is as already defined above

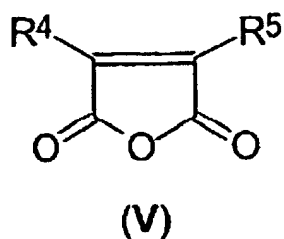
either with an unsaturated carboxylic anhydride of formula (IV),



wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 are as already defined above

or with an unsaturated carboxylic anhydride of formula (V)



wherein R^4 , R^5 are as already defined above.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein R and R^6 each independently represent a linear, branched, or cyclic or polycyclic alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl or substituted aryl group, saturated or unsaturated, containing from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein R and R^6 each independently represent a linear, branched, or cyclic or polycyclic alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl or substituted aryl group, saturated or unsaturated, containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein R and R^6 each independently represent a linear, branched, or cyclic or polycyclic alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl or substituted aryl group, saturated or unsaturated, containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein R is chosen from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, i-butyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, 2-methylbutyl, 2,3-dimethylbutyl, lauryl, pentyl, n-amyl, iso-amyl, n-hexyl, cyclohexyl, 3-methylpentyl, n-octyl, t-octyl, n-dodecyl, phenyl and substituted phenyl, ~~and the like~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 2 wherein R each independently are chosen from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, i-butyl, t-butyl, phenyl and substituted phenyl.

7. (Original) A process according to claim 6 wherein R are n-butyl or isopropyl.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 6 wherein phenyl is substituted by linear or branched alkyl, aryl, halogene, alkoxy, phenoxy or nitro.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1~~any of the preceeding claims~~, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic anhydrides of formula (IV) are selected from the group consisting of acrylic anhydride, methacrylic anhydride, crotonic anhydride, angelic anhydride, and tiglic anhydride.

10. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1~~any of the preceeding claims~~, wherein the unsaturated carboxylic anhydrides of formula (V) are selected from the group consisting of maleic anhydride, and citraconic anhydride.

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1~~any of the preceeding claims~~, wherein the catalyst comprises a mixture of a strong acid and a nucleophilic base.

12. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein the catalyst consists of a mixture of a strong acid and a nucleophilic base.

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 11~~any preceeding claim~~, wherein the strong acid has a pka value less than 5.

14. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 11~~any preceeding claim~~, wherein the nucleophilic base is a base having an available electron pair for donation.

15. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 11~~any preceeding claim~~, wherein the acids are independently selected from sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, chlorhydric acid, bromhydric acid, hydriodic acid, nitric acid, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid or perfluoroalkylsulfonic acids, methanesulfonic acid, para-toluene sulfonic acid or trifluoroacetic acid.

16. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 11~~any preceeding claim~~, wherein the nucleophilic bases are independently selected from pyridine, 2-(dimethylamino)pyridine, 4-

(dimethylamino)pyridine, 4-piperidino pyridine, 4-(4-methylpiperidino)pyridine, 4-pyrrolidinopyridine, 4-morpholinpyridine, imidazole, 1-methylimidazole, 2-methylimidazole, 4-methylimidazole, polymer-bound dimethylaminopyridine (~~examples of which may be found in US4997944 incorporated herein by reference~~), 1-methylbenzimidazole, 2-methylbenzimidazole, benzimidazole and, in addition, N-methyl imidazole(NMI), N,N-dimethylamino pyridine(DMAP), hexamethylphosphoric triamide(HMPA), 4,4-dimethyl imidazole, N-methyl-2-pyridone(NMP), pyridine N-oxide, triphenylphosphine oxide, 2,4-dimethyl pyridine, N-methyl-4-pyridone, ZnCl₂, 3,5-dimethyl pyridine, imidazole, trimethylamine, triethylamine, p-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde, 1,2-dimethyl imidazole and montmorillonites.

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 11, ~~12, 14 or 16~~ wherein the strong acid is a strong ion exchange resin.

18. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 11 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the molar ratio of strong acid to nucleophilic base in the catalyst is in the range 1:10 to 10:1.

19. (Currently Amended) A trihydrocarbylsilylated unsaturated carboxylate monomer as defined in formula I produced by a process in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-18~~.

20. (New) A process according to claim 16 wherein the montmorillonite is K10 or KSF.